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Identical letters dated 16 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 16 August 2001 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the wanton aggression committed by United States and British aircraft on 10 August 2001 against civilian and services-related installations in Dhi Qar and Wasit governorates, in which one citizen was killed and 11 were injured. This again confirms the disdain of the United States of America and the United Kingdom for the Charter of the United Nations and international law as well as for the international community's position that the enforcement of the two no-flight zones represents a unilateral decision to use force against an independent, sovereign State and has nothing to do with the United Nations.

The Minister affirms that by virtue of its long history and ancient civilization as well as the support it receives from the Arab nation and the other peoples of the world, the people of Iraq will triumph over this aggression and over the United States sanctions, whatever the name given to them. He expresses the hope that you will defend the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of justice and truth against brute force being used with extreme recklessness and irresponsibility and in contempt of all the values and norms that regulate relations between States.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 16 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

At 1130 hours on 10 August 2001, United States and British warplanes coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory violated Iraq's airspace. They carried out 12 sorties from Saudi territory and 12 from Kuwaiti territory and were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They bombed civilian and services-related installations in Dhi Qar and Wasit governorates, killing one citizen and wounding 11.

This wanton aggression again confirms the disdain of the United States of America and the United Kingdom for the Charter of the United Nations and international law as well as the position taken by the international community, as represented by both countries and organizations. This position has been conveyed in many statements and declarations, all of them affirming that the enforcement of the two no-flight zones represents a unilateral decision to use force against an independent, sovereign State and has nothing to do with the United Nations. It thus constitutes wanton military aggression such as to require the United Nations to intervene to bring it to a halt and call the perpetrators to account.

It is both astonishing and condemnable that senior officials of the United States administration should consider the perpetuation of such aggression and of the aerial bombing of Iraqi towns and villages as a response to "provocation" on the part of Iraqi air defence personnel performing their lawful duty and exercising their legitimate right to defend their homeland. This logic would take the international community back to the epoch of the "law of the jungle", would accord the aggressor the right to impose his despotic will by force and would deprive the victim of aggression even of the legitimate right to self-defence affirmed by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. This demands an explicit and resolute response from the international community and its institutions, including the United Nations, and one that imposes the force of law over the law of force and holds the aggressor to account for his crimes.

The United States administration has used its military aggression against Iraqi towns and villages, as a manifestation of brute force, in order to inflict further harm on the people of Iraq and intimidate other peoples. It has also used such aggression as a cloak and in order to distract attention from the failures of the United States administration at home and abroad. With them, when a moral scandal is uncovered at the highest levels of government, they engage in large-scale aggression against Iraq, as they do when facts come to light concerning the shameful use by the United States of a subsidiary organ of the Security Council (namely the Special Commission) for espionage against Iraq and the fabrication of crises or when their dumb and stupid sanctions fail. The United States uses the passivity of the United Nations and the Security Council with respect to the aggression under way since 1991 as an opportunity to implement its hostile policy against Iraq undeterred and to use the weapon provided by the comprehensive sanctions imposed in the name of the Security Council as an instrument for the mass extermination of the people of Iraq.

The persistence of the present situation, in which the United States conducts itself as a despotic Power that considers itself above the law, will bring about the collapse of the foundations on which international intercourse stands, based as it is on the purposes and principles of the United Nations and primarily the principle that the sovereignty of States must be respected, that there must be no interference in their internal affairs and that their security and stability must not be undermined. This requires that you should adopt an explicit and resolute stance condemning this aggression, demanding its immediate cessation and charging the perpetrators with full responsibility for it.

While anticipating your positive reply, I should like to assure you that by virtue of its long history and ancient civilization as well as the support it receives from the Arab nation and the other peoples of the world, the people of Iraq will triumph over this aggression and over the United States sanctions, whatever the name given to them. We express the hope that you will defend the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of justice and truth against brute force being used with extreme recklessness and irresponsibility and in contempt of all the values and norms that regulate relations between States and nations.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq